Free education for the handicapped

762. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan to give free education to handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether adequate funds have been collected for providing free education to handicapped persons and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme of Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, establishment of special schools is encouraged by providing grant in aid to the public institutions and voluntary organisations for imparting special education to the mentally challenged, hearing and speech impaired, visually challenged, etc., free of cost. The special schools are meant to provide for residential as well as non-residential care with the end objective of brining about varying degrees of improvement in the lives of the children with disabilities. More than 350 schools and 140 vocational training centers are being run under the Scheme.

Under "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)" a provision of Rs. 1200/- per annum per child with special needs has been made to take care of the following activities:

- Early detection and identification.
- Provisions of aids and appliances.
- Teacher Training.
- Resource support.
- Community awareness and parental counselling.
- Strengthening of special schools.
- Removal of architectural barriers, and
- Monitoring and evaluation.

An outlay of Rs. 187.20 crores has been made on this account for Children With Special Needs for the financial year 2005-06.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integreated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC) endeavours to achieve the integration of children with disabilities of mild to moderate nature in normal schools. Under this Scheme, 100% financial assistance is provided to State Government/ UTs/NGOs for transport facilities, books and stationery, uniform, instructional material, assistive equipments, readers facilities for the visually handicapped, attendant facility for the orthopaedically handicapped, special teacher facility, hostel facility for disabled children situated on school campus, removal of architectural barriers in schools etc. An outlay of Rs. 45.00 crore has been provided during 2005-06 for this purpose.

Ranking of Higher Educational Institutions

763. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the world ranking of higher educational institutions prepared by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University;

(b) if so, the details of global and regional ranking of Indian Institutions;

(c) whether Government find the criteria used in such ranking generally crediable;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the same has been communicated to the organization;

(f) whether Government propose to implement similar ranking criteria in the country; and

(g) whether Government have a credible roadmap to improve the ranking of Indian institutions in mid term, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Government not being associated with the exercise can not comment on the exercise.